IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 13, 19, 24, 40, 45, 49, 55, 59 and 64 and cancel claims 18, 44, 53 and 63 as follows:

THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS REPLACES ALL PRIOR VERSIONS

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for the prophylactic treatment of a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder, selected from coronary artery disease, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures, which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The prophylactic treatment method of claim 13 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

16. (Previously Presented) The prophylactic treatment method of claim 15 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

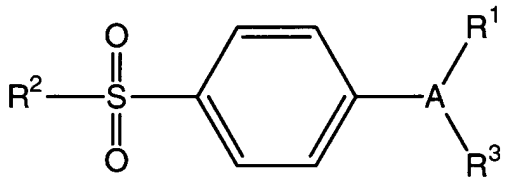
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, has a selectivity ratio of cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition over cyclooxygenase-1 inhibition of at least 50.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluroethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783,003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing risk of ~~preventing~~ atherosclerosis in a subject at risk of developing atherosclerosis which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

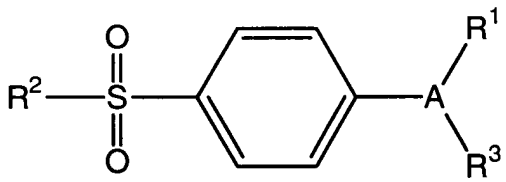
25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, has a selectivity ratio of cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition over cyclooxygenase-1 inhibition of at least 50.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, diflurorethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-

yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

32. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a single formulation, a combination of a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof and a therapeutically effective amount of a lipid lowering drug.

33. (Cancelled)

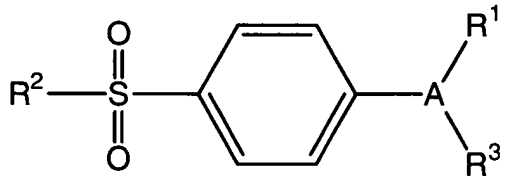
34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 32 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 34 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 35 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, has a selectivity ratio of cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition over cyclooxygenase-1 inhibition of at least 50.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 35 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2

inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluroethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 35 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783,003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 38 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

40. (Currently amended) A method for reducing risk of an ~~preventing~~ onset of a pre-clinically evident stage of a cardiovascular disorder, selected from coronary artery disease, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures, in a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

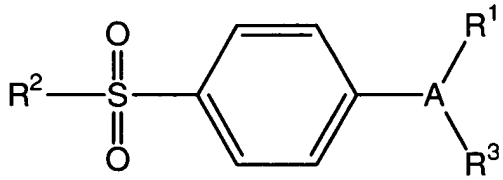
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[44]] 42 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl,

fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluroethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-

oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

49. (Currently amended) A method for reducing risk of an ~~preventing~~ onset of a clinically evident cardiovascular disorder, selected from coronary artery disease, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures, in a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

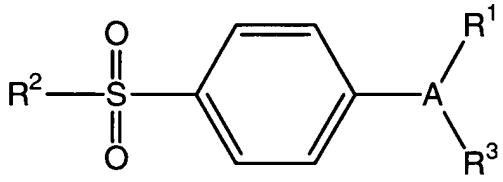
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[53]] 51 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a daily dose of 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluroethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-

butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

59. (Currently amended) A method for treating a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder, selected from coronary artery disease, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical

procedures, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

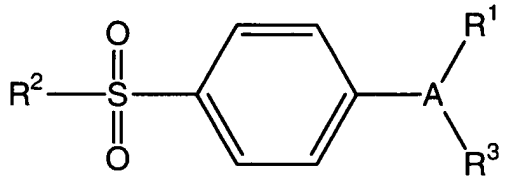
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[63]] 61 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a daily dose of 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, diflurorethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).